

## Mental Floss

by John Morales

### Reamed, Steamed, and Dry Cleaned

Well, I did it! I actually produced September's Blue Notes (and this one, too) just like I said I would. I didn't say I would do it late; it just worked out that way. Let's run down my experience, then we'll have a short question and answer period.

I observed Dave Eden do the August Blue Notes this past August (oddly enough). September rolled around quickly and there I was -- a copy of Ventura Publisher in my hand, and everything I learned from the August session in the dumper. Did I despair? Gee, I don't know; despair is a pretty strong word. Would you settle for uneasy, with a side of prickly heat?

I don't get rattled that easily, but I had a couple of things going against me in September: the deadline was approaching quickly, and THE DEADLINE WAS APPROACHING QUICKLY (not to mention a slight lack of Ventura Publisher knowledge). Uneasy? I'd give that a big yes. So how did I manage to actually get something in print?

Two things: I studied the way the August Blue Notes was done (i.e., style sheets, text files, etc.), and I had some prodding from The Big Boss With The Hot Sauce (Dave) in the final stretch (printing). Labor Day weekend turned out to be a marathon Ventura learning experience.

So how about this issue? A walk in the park? Let's not get hysterical, deadlines are deadlines. Luckily, I didn't have too much time off from Ventura between September and October (ha! ha!) so I haven't forgotten much.

### I Got Your Review Right Here!

There seems to a big concern from the members about not getting their reviews published. That is a very valid concern. If you've studied the past issues of Blue Notes you will notice that none of my reviews have ever appeared. (I guess I'll have to break down and write one.) But, for whatever reasons, some of the submitted reviews have gotten lost, misplaced, etc., during the change of editorship. I will be looking through my files to see what has and hasn't been published. You can also help me out by leaving me a message on the BBS or dropping me a line if you haven't seen your review in print (assuming you're not like me, and have actually written one). ♣

## Letters to Blue Notes

### Dear Blue Notes Readers:

The following script reveals a cute little bug in IBM DOS 3.30:

I have two standard diskette drives A: and B:. My fixed disk, C: is labeled FIXED DISK.

Boot the DOS 3.30 Startup diskette in A:. Place the DOS 3.30 Operating diskette in B:.

Change the current drive to B:.

Execute command VOL A:, getting the response, "Volume in drive A has no label." Execute commands APPEND /X & APPEND C:\. Execute command VOL A:, getting the response, "Volume in drive B is FIXED DISK."

When it finds no label on the specified drive, VOL reports the default drive letter instead of the specified one, and reports a label found on the append path. The symptom disappears if you skip the first append command, so apparently APPEND /X and VOL are incompatible. Since the DIR routine calls the VOL routine, the symptom appears in directory listings. That's where I discovered it. I have found no cure.

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### Dear Blue Notes Readers:

I just received a copy of Volume 266 (PC Magazine's benchmark tests). About the only test that runs on my machine is the processor speed test but not the printer or display tests. Either a call for BRUN20.LIB appears or the computer hangs up. I have a PC clone (Sanyo 885) with 640 KB, running at 8 MHz under DOS 2.11. Any ideas or have you heard of similar problems?

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